



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Michael G. Lewis
Director

Dave Wepking
Assistant Director

414/302-8832
414/302-8889 (Fax)

Municipal Yards
6300 West McGeoch Avenue
West Allis, Wisconsin 53219

www.westalliswi.gov

Department of Public Works Recycling Summary

The City of West Allis is committed to protecting the environment and delivering sustainable services in the most cost effective way.

Since the mid-1990's, the City of West Allis Department of Public Works has been servicing all residential properties within the City, four-family residential or less, for collection of recyclables using the Presto blue bag collection system. The City of West Allis has been contracting the services of Allied Resource Recovery, Inc. (West Allis Salvage Co. Inc.) to process all recycling materials collected within the City under a required dual-stream recycling process (residents are required to sort recyclables by type and kept separated upon collection).

The City has enjoyed a long lasting partnership with Allied Resource Recovery, Inc. with the most recent eight (8) year service contract that will be expiring at the end of this year. As agreed upon when initially contracting with Allied Resource Recovery, Inc. for their recycling processing services, all recycling materials collected required to be separated upon collection to accommodate the manual sorting performed by the Allied Resource's staff. Comingles and cardboard/newspaper required to be separated at time of collection by the residents, then transported separately and kept separated when dumping at the Allied Resource's location at 1909 S. 80th Street. Two separate dumping areas are used within Allied Resource's facility, one for the blue bag of comingles and the other for the cardboard/newspaper recycling materials.

Two dual storage compartment recycling vehicles are used by the City for collection to accommodate the need of dual-stream recycling collection.

Two recycling routes were created using a two person crew performing the City's residential recycling collection. Recycling is currently collected every other week and classified by either red or black collection weeks.



Using the blue bag collection system does offer some unique advantages: The blue bags are light weight; easy to perform a visual inspection of recycling materials contained within and can be easily stored at each residential property.

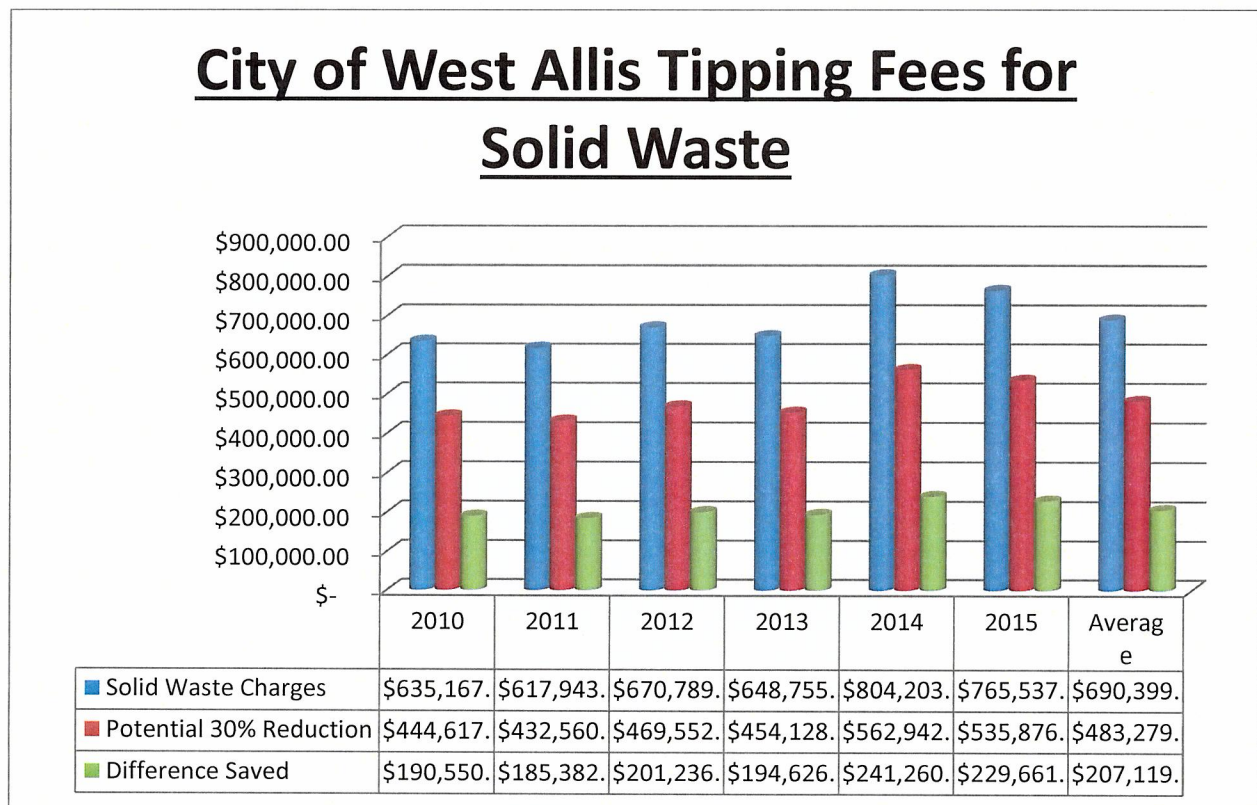
The blue bag collection system does offer some disadvantages: Limits amount of material, non-bulky items, to be stored in each blue bag, bags tend to rip easily, common issue of frequent spilling of contents due to bags not being tied/closed, residential storage causes frequent nuisance issues primarily in alleys of blight/nuisance issues, plastic bags are more prone to contaminate/damage the sorting equipment used at various recycling collection facilities therefore limiting services only to recycling locations of manual separation of recyclables, patrons incur direct expense of purchasing of the Presto blue bags, using bags requires residents to sort recyclables as designated by the recycling collection facility, cardboard/newspaper must be stored outside blue bag therefore exposing to rain/snow, etc., bags/newspaper/cardboard become heavy or become frozen during inclement weather, materials required to be stored outside and not secured of blue bag poses blight/nuisance issue when materials are blown around, bags are exposed directly to rodents. Blue bags are not currently recyclable at the Allied Resource Recovery Inc. facility.

The City, since 2010, averages approximately 2,750 tons of recycling material collected via residential curbside and/or alley. As in the past, the City is currently under the per capita recycling collection standard of 106.55 lbs. set by the DNR with the City's recent designated 2015 per capita recycling collection of only 98.12 lbs.

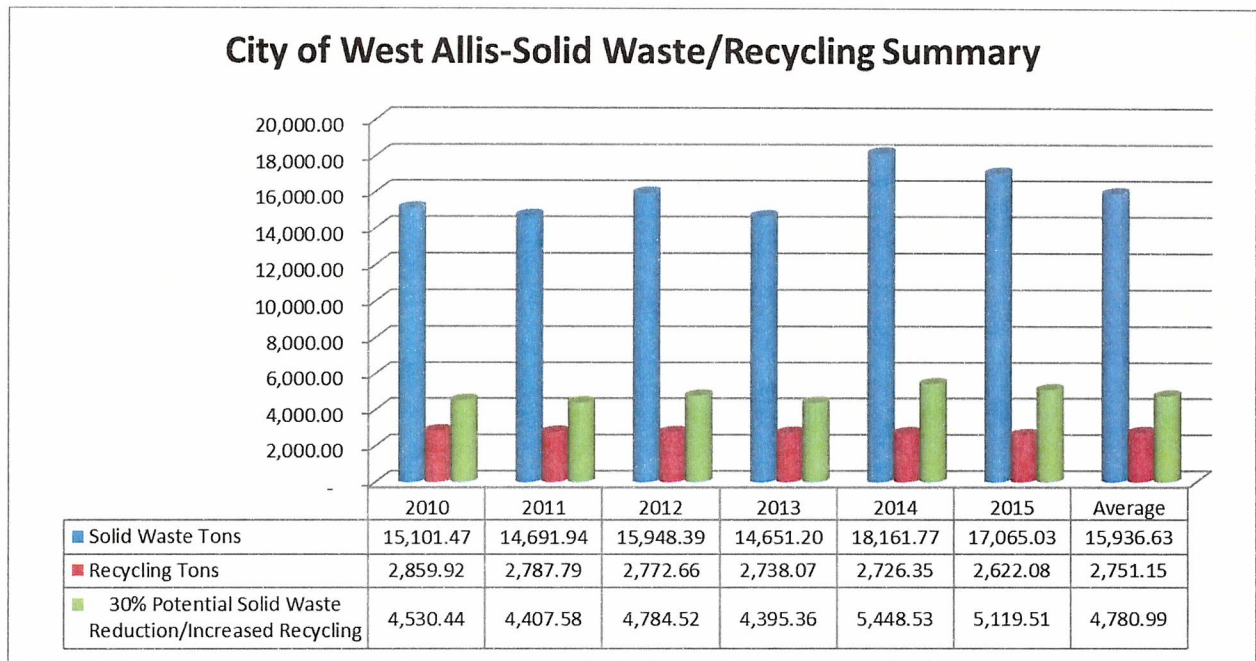
The City's current service agreement with Allied Resources as our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) expires at the end of December 2016. We have had discussions with Allied Resource Recovery Inc. and other recycling service providers (MRF's) to evaluate their interest and become familiar with their recycling operations and processing.

We were informed when meeting with various recycling service providers within the Milwaukee area, that the City would experience an estimated increase in our residential recycling collection from 20% to 40% just by switching to a single-stream collection process (allowing the recycling materials to be combined into one container rather than having the resident separate the recycling materials). Increasing the recycling collection to a potential of 30%, would potentially reduce the amount of recyclables disposed as solid waste and therefore reduce the amount of solid waste requiring to be disposed of via tipping fees and more importantly diverting from a landfill.

Below, please find a graph highlighting the amount of tipping fees the City's has experienced regarding solid waste disposal (expense incurred to dispose of the City's solid waste to a designated landfill) from 2010-2015. With a potential 30% reduction in solid waste disposal the potential savings listed for each year, in green, is identified given pricing/fees being consistent.



Listed below please find a graph outlining the total amount of residential refuse/recycling material identified in tonnage collected via curb/alley from 2010 to 2015. With a potential increase in recycling tonnage of 30% (in green) you potentially see the amount of tons that will not be processed as refuse.



City staff has been investigating the possibility of using a wheeled cart/container as the new standard for collecting recycling at City households, replacing the Presto blue bag.

The new wheeled container will make recycling easier and more convenient for residents. Questions dealing with multi-streams, how and what can be recycled, what can be included within the blue bag and what recycling material has to be contained outside the blue bag will be eliminated but will make recycling easier and more user friendly thus enhancing participation. The cart is designed to hold bulky items that may be difficult to break-down such as cardboard boxes. Ultimately, a recycling cart/container is designed to increase the amount of recyclables via curbside/alley collection with the larger container size and ease of recycling given all the variety of different recyclables which can be placed in one container.

A larger capacity container is designed to save money by increasing participation and increasing the amount of recycling material collected by making it easier and less complicated. It is less expensive to process a ton of material through a recycling facility than to dispose of it as trash. By shifting items from a refuse cart to a recycling cart for processing, you will help save disposal costs and keep landfills free of recyclables.

Using a cart system will have less nuisance issues dealing with bags being stored illegally near the curb and/or alley area and reducing the amount of recycling materials being blown around throughout the neighborhood causing a blight condition.

Safety of citizens and collection staff – the new cart has wheels and can be emptied semi-automatically which protects both citizens and collection staff.

The large recycling containers are easier to roll to the curb and less likely to tip over. Citizens can elect to have the recycling container serviced at the normal bi-weekly collection time or wait and have it serviced at the next scheduled recycling collection day on an as-needed basis.

If approved, carts will be assigned by living units within the City from 4-family residential to one-family residential household.

Currently, the City is looking at a one sized container for each living unit as specified above to provide recycling collection. Depending on the style, the 96/95 gallon container seems to be the preferred choice.

Potentially, all new recycling carts will have a RFID (radio frequency identification) tag (like a barcode) on them which will identify their assigned address location.

The carts are property of the City and are to remain with the property when residents move.

Approximately 22,000 living units given an estimated expense of \$55.00 per 96/95 gal container will be approximately \$1,210,000 in expenses which may be paid by the City using utility funding. Given the approximate savings we may experience in solid waste fees, we may have a 7 year pay back for the purchase of these recycling carts.

Implementation of the cart program will potentially begin in January 2017.

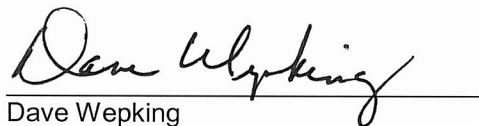
We are currently researching potential Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF's) to service the City's recycling materials using a RFP (Request for Proposal) around mid-year.

If recycling carts are approved, placement of carts will be required to be rolled out in late Fall to each residential property. Communication of the new recycling guidelines from the designated Materials Recovery Facility awarded the new recycling service contract and procedures on the City's potential new collection process would need to be advertised prior to the implementation of using these carts using fliers, TV station, newspaper, Twitter, City's web page, etc. starting ideally in late Summer.

Board of Public Works Summary

On May 3, 2016 the Board of Public Works directed the Department to pursue the cart option with funding to be determined at a future date.

Any questions may be directed to City Engineer/Director of Public Works Michael Lewis at 414-302-8372 or to Assistant Director of Public Works Dave Wepking at 414-302-8832.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dave Wepking", is written over a horizontal line.

Dave Wepking
Assistant Director of Public Works